



Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz August 4, 2014

The Indiana Department of Education released statewide and local 2013 - 2014 ISTEP+ scores today. This year we saw yet another increase in student performance indicated through ISTEP. The data shows increased scores throughout subject areas at the statewide level.

- 80.7% of Indiana students passed the English/Language Arts portion of the test, up from 79.5% in 2013.
- In Math, 83.5% students passed up from 83.0% in 2013.
- 74.7% of Indiana students passed both English/Language Arts and Math, up from 73.7% last year.

I want to congratulate Indiana's students, parents, teachers and administrators for all their hard work this past year. These increased scores are just one sign of the great learning that is happening in Indiana schools.

No word yet from the U.S. Department of Education regarding our ESEA Flexibility Waiver extension. Each week, please check the *ESEA Waiver* section of the DOE Dialogue for an update.

Attached you will find a detailed chart regarding [standards/assessment/accountability](#) changes to give you a two-page "at a glance" information pages that should be forwarded to all educators. The guidance will be updated regularly with new information as it becomes available. ([attached chart](#))

Have a great Week!

Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction



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ESEA Flexibility Waiver

Indiana Department of Education submitted an extension request of the ESEA flexibility waiver on June 30, 2014. At that time, the United States Department of Education anticipated a response to our application by the end of July. However, to date, no decision has been made by the federal

government regarding Indiana's waiver. According to a press release from the United States Department of Education on July 31st, Indiana is one of nearly 20 states that currently have waiver requests pending.

A copy of the waiver application can be found here <http://www.doe.in.gov/esea>. If you have any questions please contact Jeff Coyne at jcoyne@doe.in.gov.

Steven R. Perkins *2014 Indiana Teacher of the Year* spent an inspiring week at international space camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Along with other state teachers of the year and teachers from 10 other nations he performed experiments, participated in two NASA missions, built and launched a rocket. Check out his web site <http://intoy2014.blogspot.com/2014/07/swapping-toga-for-flight-suit.html?m=0>.

[The Children's Museum of Indianapolis](#) , transformed into a colorful, authentic, Chinese experience, sets the mood for children and families to immerse themselves in two extraordinary interactive exhibits. Rare and priceless [Terra Cotta Warriors](#) , buried for centuries in China, recently settled comfortably into the world's largest children's museum. Now, it is time to call members of this army to attention in the only place they will be seen in the United States in 2014, [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, membership](#) .

Farm to School Interactive Display at the Indiana State Fair August 1 - 17 Indiana Farm to School Network, including the Indiana Department of Education sponsor an interactive display at the DuPont Building during the Indiana State Fair August 1 - 17. The Indiana Farm to School Network work together collaboratively to make Farm to School a success in Indiana. Farm to School can improve early childhood and K-12 eating behaviors; reduce screen time; and increase physical activity. Based on national information, Farm to School programs can enhance overall academic achievement in K-12 settings and improve life skills, self-esteem, social skills, and behavior. Indiana Department of Education's Farm to School website at <http://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/farm-school>.

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IDOE Memoranda

MEMORANDUM: 2014-2015 School Safe Haven Grant Program , The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 School Safety Haven Program. ([read more about grant and application](#))

MEMORANDUM: Teen Dating Violence & Sexual Assault Conference The School Safety Academy is co-sponsoring a regional training on September 8th at River Forest High School in Hobart, Indiana and September 11th at Wilson Education Center in Charlestown, Indiana titled "Teen Dating Violence/Sexual Assault: Registration and additional information are available online here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/safety/regional-training>

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Department of Education is pleased to announce the Indiana Family Friendly Schools Designation Program effective on July 1, 2013 via Senate Enrolled Act No. 422. On Monday, August 18, 2014, the Indiana Family Friendly Schools Designation Program application will be available on the [IDOE website](#). The purpose of the program is to focus on addressing the academic, physical, emotional and social needs of students while providing the needed resources and fostering the active involvement of families through schools and the community. Contact Leroy Robinson - lrobinson@doe.in.gov; phone: 317-234-5663

MEMORANDUM: State Fair Excused Absences, SEA 114 allows the governing body of a school corporation or the chief administrative officer of a nonpublic school to authorize and excuse the absence of a student or a member of the student's household exhibits or participates in the Indiana State Fair for educational purposes. ([see memorandum](#)) For more information 317/232-9150 or

cdanyluk@doe.in.gov

MEMORANDUM: Onsite Monitoring for Staff Performance [Evaluation Plan](#) Implementation, In order to better support local districts and charter schools as they continue to implement and improve their staff performance evaluation plans, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will be conducting onsite monitoring of staff performance evaluation plans beginning with the 2014-14 school year. Please contact EEL@doe.in.gov if you have any questions. Click here for [On-Site Monitoring Plan](#)

MEMORANDUM: Emergency preparedness plans: Within the first sixty days of the school year, Superintendents must certify to IDOE that emergency preparedness plans for each school in the corporation have been reviewed and revised. The certification form has been updated to an online/paperless format and is now available here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/safety/safe-schools-and-emergency-preparedness-planning-certification-form>

MEMORANDUM: Adults Protecting Children Conference, The Indiana Department of Education in partnership with the United States Department of Justice Project Safe Childhood will be hosting the Adults Protecting Conference: A Unified Campaign to Combat Sex Abuse on September 23rd, 2014 from 8:30a-4:00p at Ivy Tech Terre Haute and September 25th at Brownsburg High School. Registration and additional information are available online here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/safety/regional-training>

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana State Surplus has hundreds of state-owned usable surplus computers available for donation to Indiana schools for a handling fee of \$1.00 per computer. Contact Ramona Beaman at rbeaman@idoa.in.gov (317) 234-3690 Director of Indiana State Surplus

MEMORANDUM: Summer School Final Report Submission Deadline Friday, September 12, 2014 - Deadline for submission of the Summer School Final Report form (online only) **IDOE will only accept online reports** (no hard copies will be accepted) for the 2014 Summer School program reimbursements,. The final report form is now available online at www.doe.in.gov/idoe/grants-management/summer-school. Access to the electronic form requires a login and password. Please use your school's corporation number as the login ID and your corporation's PIN number as the password.

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Professional Development

Education Service Centers will be offering RISE Teacher Evaluation Training between June 2014 and September 2014. Below are the scheduled dates and their registration sites:

- East Central ESC RISE August 21 and September 10th (www.ecesc.k12.in.us)
- Southern Indiana ESC: August 27-28, 2014 (<http://www.siec.k12.in.us>)
- Northwest Indiana ESC: September 4-5, 2014 (<http://www.nwiesc.k12.in.us>)
- Central Indiana ESC: September 18-19, 2014 (<http://www.ciesc.k12.in.us>)

Central Indiana Educational Services, (CIESC) offers a variety of professional learning workshops, to view these events visit www.ciesc.k12.in.us, view events calendar on right side bar or click on Services, then Professional Learning.

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Legislative & Policy Updates

For updates, check out the our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Information from Other Agencies

The **Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience** - the Midwest's largest outdoor recreational event - is searching for volunteers. The 2014 event will take place at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, 9/20-9/21. This free, family-friendly event offers more than 50 different outdoor activities and runs from 10am-6pm each day. Volunteers will be assigned to help in five-hour shifts with one of the many on-site activities such as fishing, mountain biking, canoeing, archaeological dig and more. Come experience one of the greatest events of the year! Sign up to volunteer today at <https://2014outdoorexperiencevolunteer.eventbrite.com> Contact volunteer coordinator Cheryl Hampton, (317) 233-1002, champton@dnr.in.gov. Visit us online at www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov or facebook.com/hoosieroutdoorexperience.

Affordable Colleges Foundation came to be in 2011 with the mission to provide strategies and information about pursuing an affordable higher education. Our free community resources materials and tools span topics such as financial-aid and college savings strategies, affordability and scorecard rankings, opportunities for Veterans and people with disabilities. Featured by nearly 500 top universities in the United States, Canada. Anyone can access the college guide at the following location: <http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/indiana/>

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